



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
SEOUL BUREAU



MSK-5019
4 November 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Acting Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Seoul Bureau - October 1985

I. GENERAL

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As a special favor to Seoul Bureau, Chief of Operations Group [] and Bureau Deputy Chief [] were personal guests of the UN Command Military Armistice Commission at the 26 October full-dress MAC meeting at Panmunjom. This invitation was a real rarity, as visits to Panmunjom are almost never allowed during MAC meetings. When it became apparent that a MAC meeting was to be held the same day [] visit was scheduled, we assumed the visit would be canceled. However, Rear Admiral Charles F. Horne, Senior Member of UNCMAC and one of the most voracious local readers of the Bureau product, invited [] to attend as his personal guests. [] impressions of the visit follow:

"On the morning of 26 October we met the official party at the 'Monastery', the officers club at Camp Kitty Hawk, several miles south of Panmunjom. Special Advisor Jimmy Lee, the Bureau's primary alerting contact at UNCMAC, met us and noted how much he depends on FBIS. He told us that before Seoul Bureau was established, he and his staff were forced to listen to Pyongyang radio themselves in order to quickly provide UNCMAC with DPRK reportage and comment on North-South issues. Jimmy then introduced us to Admiral Horne, who talked with us for several minutes. He said he was pleased to have us as guests, since UNCMAC and he personally were indebted to FBIS, and especially Seoul Bureau, for its alerting responsibilities and prompt translations of material on MAC meetings and crises in North-South relations. Seoul Bureau staffers know from first-hand experience that the admiral was not exuding platitudes; he is often in Jimmy Lee's office when Jimmy calls the Bureau for information.

"After the large official party had assembled we took the bus with part of the delegation to the Joint Security Area. The major assigned to accompany us arranged a quick of the JSA before the meeting began at 1100. We were the only civilians visible except for the press corps. Walking to the conference hall, through and around the sizable number of military security personnel and the honor guards, we watched the UNCMAC party led by the admiral march into the conference building. A few quick steps to the side of the building enabled us to see the North Korean delegation marching up to the other end of the building, escorted by a large KPA honor guard. As the

meeting began we had 'ringside' seats to the proceedings through the windows of the conference building which were open for press photographers and the many military observers outside. We were told that TASS, PRAVDA and NOVOSTI correspondents were present, although we did not make their acquaintance. In addition to the many U.S. and ROK military personnel were Swedish, Swiss, Polish and Czech officers from the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission and a number of British, Australian, French, Philippine and other UNCMAC personnel. All these people in different uniforms, standing or walking casually in the bright sunshine while loudspeakers carried the statements and translations throughout the JSA, presented a strange spectacle.

"After Admiral Horne read UNCMAC's long protest over the DPRK spy boat incident, and after the statement was translated into Korean and Chinese, we decided that we had savored enough of the surrealistic surroundings and were driven back to the 'Monastery' and returned to Seoul. The meeting was most impressive, and a vivid reminder of Seoul Bureau's proximity to the frontline."

II. OPERATIONS

Editorial/Monitorial

1. The Bureau's publishable wordage for October reached an all-time high of over 747,000, topping the previous record set in May 1985 during the occupation of the USIS Library. Wordage from Pyongyang radio was nearly 50,000 over the previous high and constituted about one-third of the total. The Korean Unit accomplished this despite being down one monitor and despite extensive processing backlogs throughout the month.

In addition to "normal" activities that add to the workload, such as two MAC meetings and the various North-South talks, several other events dominated media attention during the month. First was the visit of PRC Vice Premier Li Peng, and more than a dozen other PRC delegations, to the DPRK to mark the 35th anniversary of the entrance of the Chinese People's Volunteers into the Korean War. The Li Peng visit attracted interest from AB and the Embassy, particularly in attempting to gauge the state of DPRK-PRC relations in the light of Pyongyang's perceived tilt toward the USSR. Second was the 20 October sinking by the ROK Armed Forces of a DPRK "spy boat" off Pusan, which resulted in a formal protest to the DPRK at the 26 October MAC meeting. Reportage on the sinking, ROK reaction, and Pyongyang's denunciation of the incident as a "fabrication by the South" generated considerable interest among several consumers, particularly UNCMAC, which the Bureau alerted several times in connection with the incident. Finally, a new development in Rok-U.S. relations--antagonism over U.S. trade policy and the imposition of levies on ROK exports to the U.S.--fully emerged in the ROK press. The theme of several editorials in the Seoul vernacular papers has been that the U.S. is singling out the ROK in imposing protectionist measures and that Korea, not Japan or other more developed countries, is being made a scapegoat.

2. After being alerted by MOD, early in the month the Bureau began recording broadcasts of the clandestine radio "Echo of the Masses." The Bureau had no prior record of this station, which broadcasts in the evening and purports to transmit from Seoul. Reception of the station, very poor at best, has deteriorated to unmonitorable. Programming that was audible

closely parallels that of the clandestine Voice of National Salvation, and Bureau monitors think the two stations use several of the same announcers. Reception of the station is better in Okinawa than in Seoul, and at our request Okinawa Bureau's Cruising Unit has recorded 8 days of the station's casts and mailed the recordings to us. The Seoul Bureau cruising monitor will exploit them for further observations.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Senior Editor [redacted]

[redacted] is filling in while [redacted] is on maternity leave.

2. Bureau staff employees and their dependents are in the process of applying for diplomatic passports, which will be issued following revision of State Department guidelines. The Embassy Personnel and Consular sections have been most cooperative in explaining procedures and helping employees fill out the necessary paperwork. Embassy officers believe it will take about four months before employees receive their new black passports.

3. New Korean monitor [redacted] entered on duty 4 November. [redacted] replaces [redacted] who transferred to USIS in September.

B. Building & Grounds

Renovation of the Bureau's operations area began as scheduled on 5 October. Walls have been moved or removed to increase working space in the editorial, communications and Korean monitors' rooms. A new editorial desk and cabinet work for use in other offices are now being built, and new carpeting throughout the operations area is to be installed on 16 November.

IV. VISITS

1. Chief of Operations Group [redacted] visited the Bureau from 23-28 October as part of a management inspection tour of the Far East bureaus.

2. Former FBIS Director [redacted] who was in Seoul to attend a regional conference, visited the Bureau briefly on the 29th.

3. [redacted] a former FBIS editor who is now on a rotation assignment as a Korean analyst with the State Department, visited the Bureau for a tour and briefing on the 16th. She was in Korea as part of an orientation tour that also took her to China and Japan.

4. Okinawa Bureau Japanese monitor [redacted] stopped by the Bureau on the 7th. [redacted] was in Seoul on private travel, to attend the marriage of his niece.

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5. Okinawa Bureau Administrative Officer [redacted] visited the Bureau for an orientation on 1 November. He was in Korea to attend a regional conference.

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Chief, Seoul Bureau

Attachment

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau

Seoul Bureau Production Report for October 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	747730
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	138270
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1864

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	13685.00 min.	5510.00 min.	104.46 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

CHINA			
Beijing International service in Korean to Korea	1900		
Beijing City Service in Mandarin	3500		
Changchun Jilin Provincial Service in Mandarin	12100		
Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in Mandarin	16020		
Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in Mandarin	14250		
Jinan Shandong Provincial Service in Mandarin	21910		
Shenyang Liaoning Provincial Service in Mandarin	14750		
Shijiazhuang Hebei Provincial Service in Mandarin	6670		
Tianjin City Service in Mandarin	6730		
Beijing BEIJING RIBAO in Chinese			12500
Changchun JILIN RIBAO in Chinese			5680
Harbin HEILONGJIANG RIBAO in Chinese			920
Hohhot NEIMENGGU RIBAO in Chinese			2200
Jinan DAZHONG RIBAO in Chinese			4750
Shenyang LIAONING RIBAO in Chinese			8950
Shijiazhuang HEBEI RIBAO in Chinese			16130

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
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Tianjin TIANJIN RIBAO in
Chinese

10000

CLANDESTINE
(Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in
Korean to South Korea

13000

KOREA (NORTH)
Pyongyang Domestic Service in
Korean

225440

Pyongyang Domestic Television Service in
Korean

0

Pyongyang KCNA in
English

182100

Pyongyang KULLOJA in
Korean

8400

KOREA (SOUTH)
Seoul Domestic Service in
Korean

4070

Seoul YONHAP in
English

67640

Seoul CHOSON ILBO in
Korean

2600

Seoul CHUANGANG ILBO in
Korean

500

Seoul HANGUK ILBO in
Korean

1150

Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in
Korean

0

Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in
Korean

650

Seoul SINTONG-A in
Korean

0

Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in
English

38180

Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in
English

32590

Seoul TONG-A ILBO in
Korean

6150

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
Moscow International Service in
Korean

6300